

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting - Boston, MA
March 20-22, 2017

1. Title of Discussion: International Affairs and Trade

2. Presenter: John Henderschedt, Director
Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection

3. Objective/Purpose (Informational)

The objective of the presentation is to provide an update on NOAA Fisheries' ongoing efforts to address technical and policy challenges to U.S. seafood exporters and to ensure access for U.S. seafood production to global markets. Discussion regarding specific challenges and priorities is encouraged.

4. Background/Synopsis

Over 90% of the seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported and over 50% percent of U.S. seafood production is exported. It is important to recognize the importance of global seafood markets to align national resources and production capacity with global supply and demand, and ensure access for U.S. consumers to wholesome, affordable seafood.

The Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (IASI) supports a broad mission in the areas of policy, regulation, seafood safety, and trade. IASI works to strengthen global seafood markets by:

- Ensuring confidence in the safety and quality of U.S.;
- Analyzing and communicating potential impacts of various actions by the U.S. government or actions of foreign trading partners;
- Establishing partnerships with industry and consumer groups; and
- Leveling the playing field for U.S. seafood producers through the administration of trade-restrictive regulations.

5. Action to be taken by MAFAC members

This is an opportunity to get information and ask questions on these important efforts.